

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action dated June 18, 2007, claims 25-37 were allowed and claim 38 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise containing allowable subject matter. Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 25-37. By this Amendment, Applicants propose to cancel claims 1-24, amend claim 38 so that it is in independent form and therefore put this application in condition for allowance.

In the Final Office Action dated June 18, 2007 claims 13 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,833,971 ("Kubik"). Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubik in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,611,304 ("Shinojima"). Claims 1-7, 12, 17, 18, and 20-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Patent No. 6,006,706 ("Kanzaki") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,626,116 ("Reedy"). Claims 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Kanzaki in view of Reedy and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,135,073 ("Feucht"). Claims 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Kanzaki in view of Reedy and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,634,333 ("Fujieda"). Claims 1-7, 12, 17, 18, and 20-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Kanzaki in view of Reedy and further in view of Feucht. Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Kanzaki in view of Reedy and further in view of Feucht and further in view of Shinojima. Claims 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Kanzaki in view of Feucht and further in view of Reedy and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,267,097

("Urushihara"). While Applicants do not agree with these rejections, in order to further prosecution, Applicants propose to cancel claims 1-24 and amend claim 38 so that it is independent form. Therefore, these rejections are now moot, and this application should be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 25-37 in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner. Furthermore, Applicants submit that the entry of the Amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

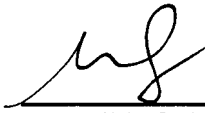
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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